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## **REMARKS**

## Claims 1-7

Claim 1 is an independent claim, from which currently pending claims 4-7 depend. Claim 3 had in the First Office Action of July 3, 2003, been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 had originally depended from claim 2, which depended from claim 1. Applicant has rewritten independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3, and therefore submits that claim 1 is now in allowable form. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Because claims 4-7 depend from claim 1, these claims, too, are in allowable form now.

## Claims 8-14

Claim 8 is an independent claim, from which currently pending claims 11-14 depend. Claim 10 had in the First Office Action of July 3, 2003, been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 10 had originally depended from claim 9, which depended from claim 8. Applicant has rewritten independent claim 8 to include the limitations of claims 9 and 10, and therefore submits that claim 8 is now in allowable form. Claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled. Because claims 11-14 depend from claim 1, these claims, too, are in allowable form now.

## Claims 20-26

Claim 20 is an independent claim, from which currently pending claims 23-26 depend. Claim 22 had in the First Office Action of July 3, 2003, been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 22 had originally depended from claim 21, which depended from claim 20. Applicant has rewritten independent claim 20 to include all the limitations of claims 21 and 22, and therefore submits that

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claim 20 is now in allowable form. Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled. Because claims 23-26

depend from claim 20, these claims, too, are in allowable form now.

Claims 27-35

Applicant has without prejudice cancelled claims 27-35.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the pending claims in condition for

allowance, and request that they so be allowed. However, should there remain unresolved issues

that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants'

Attorney so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. For these reasons, this

application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly

solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

March 8, 2004

Date

Michael A. Dryja, Reg. No. 39,662

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

Law Offices of Michael Dryja 704 228<sup>th</sup> Ave NE #694 Sammamish, WA 98074

tel: 425-427-5094

fax: 206-374-2819